IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claims 1, 4-8; 10-11 and 47.

Please cancel claims 12-46 without prejudice or disclaimer.

1. (Currently Amended) A pharmaceutical solid dosage unit for oral administration to a human female comprising a therapeutically effective amount of 17β-estradiol-3-acetate and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, wherein the percent moisture of said dosage unit is less than or equal to 8%.

2-3. (Cancelled)

4. (Currently Amended) The dosage unit according to claim 1, wherein the percent moisture of said dosage unit is less than ~~or equal to 8%~~ 5%.

5. (Previously Amended) The dosage unit according to claim 1, wherein an amount of 17β-estradiol-3-acetate in said dosage is from about 0.1 to about 10 mg as estradiol equivalent.

6. (Currently Amended) The dosage unit according to ~~Claim~~ claim 1, further comprising one or more pharmaceutically acceptable inhibitors of ester hydrolysis selected from the group consisting of acetic acid, formic acid, propionic acid, lactic acid and tartaric acid.

7. (Currently Amended) The dosage unit according to ~~Claim~~ claim 1, further comprising one or more additional steroids.

8. (Currently Amended) The dosage unit according to ~~Claim~~ claim 7, wherein said one or more steroids have progestational activity.

9. (Original) The dosage unit according to claim 4, wherein the dosage unit is prepared by a granulation method.

10. (Currently Amended) The dosage unit according to ~~Claim~~ claim 1, wherein the dosage unit is a tablet, capsule, powder, lozenge, or troche ~~or suspension~~.

11. (Currently Amended) The dosage unit according to ~~Claim~~ claim 1, wherein the dosage unit is a tablet or capsule.

12-46. (Cancelled)

47. (Currently Amended) The dosage unit according to ~~Claim~~ claim 6, wherein said pharmaceutically acceptable inhibitor of ester hydrolysis is acetic acid.